

hose, which was squirting about and threatening to overturn the water tower. From the first the real fight was to keep the fire from spreading south across Leonard street to the building occupied by James P. Smith & Co., dealers in fancy groceries. It was a tough and no matter until the south wall of the burning block fell, but with that the fight was won on that side.

Early in the proceedings a strong north wind kept the flames away from the line of old tenement houses adjoining the burning building on the east, but within an hour the wind shifted toward the west. Deputy Commissioner Bugher had the police clear the tenements and lead out the forty-seven police horses stalled at Leonard street.

By 9 o'clock the firemen had the blaze whipped. Even before that some of the high pressure men had been called away to the other fires. Fireman Robert Hirsman of No. 18 engine was run over by the engine tender and taken to the Hudson street hospital with badly bruised legs. George Jan of the searchlight company had the fingers of his left hand crushed. These were the only accidents.

The flood from the high pressure hose overtopped the seawall fluted Leonard street two feet deep, making it necessary to wade to reach the Leonard street police station. Everywhere in the picture was plenty of exciting life.

Comptroller Metz, whose chemical works are only a block above the burned building, was on hand to look after his interests. The firemen of the wind saved him from worry.

Representatives of F. C. Hazard & Co. and the Crandall & Godley Company, speaking also for the Lipton firm, agreed with Chief Croker that the loss by this fire was about \$1,000,000.

The second fire of the series, which started at 7:40 o'clock, destroyed the story building at 113 and 113 1/2 Bowery, between Hester and Grand streets, and gave the firemen a fight lasting three hours. It was marked by the throwing of rescues of men who were hemmed in by the flames on the roof of a four story structure adjoining.

In twenty minutes the fire was a furnace. Deputy Chief Martin knew the battle Croker was having over on the West Side and for a time he was reluctant to proceed for additional aid. A third high pressure tender took a station in front of the building and let go, while three crews mounted the south-bound elevated at the top of the third avenue elevated road and leveled high pressure streams into the roaring furnace. Powerful streams were also directed from the roof tops of the tenements along Chrystie street in the rear of the burning building. Still the fire gained.

Chief high pressure worked magnificently, but it seemed as if there wasn't enough water to drown out the flames that shot high above the roof. Chief Martin's men, however, in about two hours, had the battle won.

It was just a few minutes before a clock when the fire, which started in the People's Music Hall, directly across at 104 and 106 Bowery, was crowded to the doors. Two detectives ordered the manager to close the doors, leading to the orchestra and allow nobody to enter or leave. Then to the orchestra leader the detectives said:

"Give 'em something loud and noisy and lively," they commanded, "and don't stop till we tell you."

So while the engines and trucks rattled in the street the audience heard nothing but the orchestra and didn't know of the fire.

There were fifteen men at work in the interior of the music hall. Chief Kirschman of the fourth engine, who spoke "Fire" was raised. All made a dash for the fire escapes except three men, Adolph Slesinger, Louis Kniel and Simon Morris, who had to crawl from the window on that floor to the roof of 111. The next building to the south, 109, is six stories, and the three were hemmed in and flames came all around them.

Detectives Snyder and Wertheimer of the Allen street branch got a rope and went to the roof of the Boston Hotel, a building house, a few floors below.

They crossed over to the ledge of 111 and Snyder lowered himself down to the roof of the four story structure, tied the rope around the chimney, one at a time, and had his partner and several policemen who followed them haul the men up the two stories to safety.

These firms suffered: M. Rapoport, dealer in crockery; Gluckman & Son, manufacturers of cigarette tubes; the "Preston" Cigarette Company; Jacob Kirschman, a tailor; and a clock maker.

The third fire of the series was discovered at 8:17 o'clock, when flames were seen coming from the third story window of the Crosby street building, a four story building which runs through to Broadway two doors below East Houston street.

The first company of Engine 33 in Great Jones street, two blocks away, had a down town but the other section held in reserve hurried to the newest fire. The men pumped from the Broadway side for some time, but the fire was too big for them. The second section of high pressure company 26 got to work at the Crosby street side.

Park & Tilford

CALL ATTENTION TO THEIR COFFEES

Best in Quality. Best in Value. 18c. per lb. and upwards.

Wines and Groceries

Lowest Prices for Value and Quality. Only Standard Brands and Full Weight.

The first alarm sounded. The fire had been confined to the one building, S. Steinfeld, maker of women's and children's clothing, occupied the first and second floors and the two top floors; Searle, Bailey & Co., manufacturers of straw goods, the third floor, and Helman & Lichten, in the same line, the fourth floor. The building is owned by the Adickson estate.

In the vicinity of each fire traffic on all lines was halted for about two hours.

MEETING TO AID SUFFERERS.

2,000 at Madison Square Hear the Vice-President and the Mayor.

Vice-President Fairbanks and Mayor McClellan were the principal speakers last night in Madison Square Garden at a benefit for the relief of the sufferers from the earthquake in Italy. The meeting was under the auspices of the American Italian Relief Committee, of which Patrick F. McGowan is chairman and John J. Freschi secretary and treasurer.

The committee expected that Madison Square would be packed and the police received orders to look out for a big crowd. Inspector McCluskey had 100 men in and out of the Garden, whose services were not required at any time. The galleries of the Garden were unoccupied and the benches were bare, where perhaps 2,000 people shivered.

The heating arrangements were so poor that the Vice-President and the other speakers were blue about the nose and sat with buttoned overcoats. Hundreds of people unable to stand the cold got up and left before Chairman McGowan opened the meeting. An Italian band of 100 pieces and several Italian marching societies worked hard to liven up the meeting.

Mr. McGowan read telegrams from President Roosevelt, Mr. Taft, James S. Sherman and Gov. Hughes. He introduced the Vice-President, who spoke briefly. Mr. Fairbanks said that the Government had done much already toward relieving the misery in Calabria and Sicily, but that the Government could not be expected to do everything. Every man who could afford it ought to give something toward the cause, the Vice-President believed. There had never been in our history, he said, so great a demand upon our generosity.

Mayor McClellan said the catastrophe had affected this city peculiarly, since one-ninth of its population, nearly half a million people, are of Italian birth. He had an opportunity, said the Mayor, of saying a little over the city, but he spoke briefly. Mr. Fairbanks said that the Government had done much already toward relieving the misery in Calabria and Sicily, but that the Government could not be expected to do everything. Every man who could afford it ought to give something toward the cause, the Vice-President believed. There had never been in our history, he said, so great a demand upon our generosity.

Count Massiglia, the Consul-General to this port, read a telegram from the Italian Ambassador, Marchese Placido, which said that the generosity of the United States had created a bond between this country and Italy that nothing could ever break.

"America's generosity," said the Count, "has been as unparalleled as the calamity itself. You have gained the lasting gratitude of Italy. I, the Mayor," said Mr. McClellan, "ask all New Yorkers who can afford it to give generously for the Italian cause. Such subscription is too small to be thankfully received."

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Three thousand men and women, mostly Italians, knelt in St. Patrick's cathedral last night, when the Mayor, Mr. McClellan, presided at a service for the relief of the sufferers from the earthquake in Italy. The service was held at 264 East Fourth street last night. There were 300 present in the cathedral, which was filled with people who wept and cried by turns. A squeaky violin and a piano were the only musical instruments. But the 300 made up a fund of \$500 to be sent across the relief.

Mr. Gina Lombroso Ferrero presided and made a short speech in which she told of the suffering through the devastated region and its former beauty.

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Archbishop Joseph Averara, the apostolic delegate to Cuba, and himself at Italian, celebrated the mass, assisted by Fathers Hughes and Martin of the Cathedral. Archbishop Farley in his robes of red and his cap, presided on the throne. Mr. Mooney delivered a short eulogy before the close of the mass. At the conclusion of the mass Archbishop Farley pronounced a benediction.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GIFT. Sends \$20,000 to Italian Sufferers, of Which It Gives \$10,000.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday a resolution was passed requesting the American Ambassador to Italy to convey to that nation the expression of its sympathy. A subscription list raised by the chamber yesterday, the Chamber of Commerce voted to send \$20,000. Of this the chamber voted \$10,000. John T. Ferry contributed \$1,000 and \$500 gifts were sent by Alexander E. Orr, John B. McDonald, Scott & Bowne, John Claffin, Cornelius N. Bliss and Bertroni, Giacomo & Jenks.

ITALY'S RUINS STILL SHAKE

MESSINA'S BEAUTIFUL CEMETERY IS DESTROYED.

American Relief Ship Sails With Grisco. Aboard—More Americans Reported Safe—Survivors at Messina Urge Rebuilding—Our Consul Careless for British.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. ROME, Jan. 7.—Slight shocks continue at intervals at Messina and Reggio. A shock at Messina has destroyed the cemetery, which with its orange groves and magnificent monuments, was one of the most beautiful in Italy.

The Bayern, the American relief steamship, sailed at 4 o'clock this afternoon from Civita Vecchia. Ambassador Grisco and a specially trained staff are on board.

The Ambassador will go to Messina on the Bayern and await there the arrival of the American fleet from Port Said. He will return with it to Rome by way of Naples.

So far the relief contributions cabled from the United States amount to \$600,000. The following named persons, who had been reported missing, have been found safe at Taormina: John Wright and wife, Miss Eleanor Wood, Miss Bookins, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Kennedy, Miss Pittfield of Philadelphia, Miss Stadelman of Delaware, Charles King Wood, Helen Meschall Trenton and Miss Fagan.

The only native American who, it is feared, were in Messina at the time of the earthquake and are still missing are Mr. and Mrs. Roberts. It is believed they were at the Hotel Victoria.

The King, in addition to his first donation, has contributed \$100,000 to the National Relief Committee.

The only news arriving here now from Messina is from official sources, as the evacuation of the city is now almost complete and nobody is allowed to enter. Orders have been given to hasten at any cost the work of burying the dead.

Eight long pits for the reception of the bodies are dug daily, one in each zone. Soldiers are doing the work, and it is hoped they will be able to bury at least 1,000 corpses daily, otherwise even the troops will be forced to evacuate the city.

Three persons were rescued from the ruins to-day and 200 were buried. The aqueduct is being repaired and it is expected it will be in use in four days.

A meeting of survivors was held at Messina to-day under the presidency of Deputy Fulci. It passed unanimously a resolution asserting the necessity, from a historic and national point of view, that the city be rebuilt, and also expressing the conviction that Parliament would be interpreting national sentiment and the wishes of the civilized world if it should by efficacious measures insure Messina's fresh life.

A copy of the resolution was presented to Signor Trinchieri, prefect of Messina, who undertook to support the wishes of the citizens. He said a civil engineer had been ordered to report on the condition of the Plain of Mosella, a short distance from Messina, where temporary public offices will be built. These possibly may become the nucleus of a new Messina.

Signor Bertolini, Minister of Public Works, says that the only house left intact in Messina was a dwelling of one story. He thinks it possible to rebuild Messina, but says the rebuilding would have to be done under very strict regulations.

There are others who say, however, that it will be impossible to build the city on the same site.

The newspaper correspondents who are returning from Messina show signs of the privations they have suffered. They describe the ruined city as an uninhabitable charnel house, where it is impossible to even buy a piece of bread without an order signed by the military commander.

Gen. Mazza, commanding in the earthquake districts, informs Prime Minister Giolitti that a staff officer at Messina has been charged to furnish news to newspaper correspondents in order to prevent the publication of false information.

The work of dynamiting the most dangerous ruins began to-day.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The Mail's correspondent at Messina says the British survivors are meeting with difficulties owing to lack of consular representation. Most of them are well. Therefore the Italian Government is not expected to want for nothing, and 207 of them are dependent upon the American Vice-Consul, who, although he has no Americans at his disposal, has established a shelter on the shore.

The Rome correspondent of the Times especially praises the promptitude and the energy of the Italian Government. He describes the American consul carried out their relief plan. He praises even more the generosity of the volunteers who have been sent to the city, and gave what is more valuable than money—their time and personal service.

NO INAUGURATION IN ILLINOIS. Gov. Deneen's Friends Seem Scheme to Control Waterway Funds.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 7.—The inauguration of Gov. Charles S. Deneen and the other State officers elected November 3 has been postponed indefinitely and the legislative wheels are at a standstill.

THE "ROYAL LIMITED"

The best appointed train out of New York for Baltimore and Washington is the "ROYAL LIMITED" from 23d St. 3.50 p. m. and Liberty St. 4.00 p. m. daily, arriving Washington 9.00 p. m. in Five Hours.

It is all Pullman, but no other extra fare is charged. The cafe-smoking, parlor and observation cars are superb, and the table d'hôte dinner on the dining car appeals.

For tickets and reservations call at Ticket Offices of the Central Railroad of New Jersey and Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

OPERATING ON A RHINOCEROS

MOGUL OF BRONX PARK A TRACTABLE SUBJECT.

Needs But Four Ounces of Chloroform to Make the Big Beast Unconscious and Then Cataracts on Both Eyes Are Removed—One Rumpus at the Start.

Mogul, the rhinoceros at Bronx Park, who is the most valuable animal in the zoo, according to Dr. W. Reid Blair, the veterinary, had two cataracts removed yesterday, one for each eye. Among those more or less interested in the operation were Dr. George G. Van Mater, oculist and aurist to humans as well as animals; Dr. Blair, who administered the anesthetic; Drs. Mangen, Grand and Quigley, who passed instruments and helped out all around, and Wait Thuman, Dick Richards, Al Ferguson, Charlie Snyder and Fred Slosser, whose business it was to sit fast and hold tight. Then of course Director Hornaday was on hand to keep an eye on everything.

There are only three or four Indian rhinoceroses in captivity, and as Mogul is one of these and the only one in this country considerable anxiety was felt for him. It was thought for a while that Mogul would have to wear spectacles, but this idea had to be discarded when it was found that his eyes were totally unfit for holding them in place. Then too he really didn't need glasses to find his way about his cage. And as for reading, why, the only reading matter which comes to his attention is the printing on the signs describing the animals across the way, and even a rhino soon tires of reading the same thing over and over again. But they wanted to save his sight for him, and yesterday's operation was the sequel to one performed last May, when the obstructions were partially removed.

It took the keepers more than half an hour to get him hobbled and thrown; Mogul would have been a very difficult form to handle. In the previous operation he had needed nearly two pounds of the drug to put him to sleep, but yesterday Mogul inhaled the fumes of less than four ounces and was dreaming about jungle glades and all that sort of thing. One nostril was filled with cotton and over the other a strip of cheesecloth was poured, and Mogul was put to sleep. At the first whiff Mogul had a recollection of his past experience, and Dick Richards is now nursing a bruised knee which came in contact with Mogul's protruding horn at the recollection.

A bottle of chloroform went flying at the same time from Dr. Blair's hand, and the rhino snatched it up and poured a drop at a time. At the first whiff Mogul had a recollection of his past experience, and Dick Richards is now nursing a bruised knee which came in contact with Mogul's protruding horn at the recollection.

In just twenty minutes the operation was finished. There was only a slight impediment to the doctors' work, and that was Mogul's third, or winking, eyelid. Every rhinoceros, it seems, has a sliding eyelid which he can close when he is asleep or shut off of intrusion very effectively. It was this adjustable curtain, which works involuntarily and is hard to restrain from closing when the rhino is awake, that delayed the proceedings.

While they were waiting for Mogul to come around, the privileged ones who had been present in the operation, and that was Mogul's third, or winking, eyelid. Every rhinoceros, it seems, has a sliding eyelid which he can close when he is asleep or shut off of intrusion very effectively. It was this adjustable curtain, which works involuntarily and is hard to restrain from closing when the rhino is awake, that delayed the proceedings.

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90% Prefer the Pianola

DURING the past five years there has been a rapid growth of interest among the leading schools and colleges in regard to the use of Piano-players for teaching music. Notwithstanding the many different makes now on the market, nine out of ten of the educational institutions have chosen the Pianola.

The purchase of a Piano-player is an even more serious matter with colleges and universities than with the average private individual. It is of prime importance for an educational institution to give its pupils the advantage of the best equipment that it is possible to obtain.

That the Pianola should be so universally selected by those most competent to make comparisons, furnishes convincing evidence of its great superiority.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 30, '08.

THE AEOLIAN COMPANY

GENTLEMEN:—Referring to Prof. Turner, to whom we sold a Weber Pianola Piano, I beg to say that this gentleman is a member of the faculty of the State University of Wisconsin.

I believe you are aware that we sold a Pianola and two Weber pianos direct to the University; also, a Weber Pianola Piano to Prof. Thorkelson of the State University.

Prof. Beebe, also a member of the faculty of the State University, has a Weber Pianola Piano, as has Prof. John Olin of the University.

Sincerely yours, W. W. WARNER.

Do not fail to note that the name "Pianola" applies exclusively to the instruments made by the Aeolian Company. It is a serious mistake to suppose that all Piano-players may be called "Pianolas" or are very much alike. Only the Pianola and Pianola Piano have those vital improvements the Metrostyle and Themodist.

THE AEOLIAN COMPANY AEOLIAN HALL, 362 Fifth Ave. Near 34th Street, NEW YORK

MRS. ERB AND SISTER GO FREE

JURY FINDS THAT MRS. BEISEL FIRED IN SELF-DEFENCE.

Widow Makes Plans for Securing Lawful Share of Dead Man's Estate. Will Be Hitherto Opposed by Dead Man's Relatives, Who Are in Possession.

MEDIA, Pa., Jan. 7.—Mrs. M. Florence Erb and Mrs. Catherine Beisel, her sister, were acquitted to-day of the murder of Capt. J. Clayton Erb, for which they have been on trial for the last week.

Both women wept when the verdict was given and thanked Judge, counsel and jurors alike. They also held an impromptu reception with relatives and friends.

Half an hour afterward Mrs. Erb, her sister, the latter's husband and her half-brother were closeted with the attorneys for the defence, preparing to begin at once litigation over the estate of the dead man. Mrs. Erb will claim her legal portion as widow. Under the Pennsylvania law she is entitled to one-half the realty and one-third of the personal estate.

Just what the value of the estate is no one knows. The inventory shows only about \$10,000, but it will be alleged that a great portion, including the Red Gables estate, is being held wrongfully by political friends of the guardian, mainly by Leader Lasell W. Durham, for the dead man's sisters and to prevent Mrs. Erb from getting her share. The whole estate, according to friends of Mrs. Erb, is worth about \$150,000.

The city residence, 336 South Thirteenth street, is now in the possession of Capt. Erb's sisters. These sisters and the friends of Mrs. Erb will make a determined fight to prevent her from getting a cent out of the estate.

While this consultation was going on in Media the attorneys for Erb's sisters were having a war council in Philadelphia. "There will be much litigation," said all they would say when it was over. A few days after the shooting in order to frustrate any attempts to gain possession of the estate Mrs. Kate L. Erb filed a bill of partition in the office of the Register of Wills in Philadelphia, giving a bond of \$20,000. By this stroke she became administratrix and at the same time prevented Mrs. Erb from drawing on the funds of her dead husband for her defence.

As soon as word of Mrs. Erb's acquittal and her intention of fighting for the estate reached the sisters of Capt. Erb they at once avowed their intention of fighting to the end.

The jury brought in their verdict at 10:25 this morning after eighteen hours of listening. The foreman, Charles W. Dickinson, was the last man to give in, having stood out for a verdict of manslaughter against Mrs. Be